

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 2082

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO MPOL
SUBJ: FLEXIBILITY STUDY-DRC ITEMS

REF: USNATO 1915 DTG 040905Z APR 77

1. DUE TO THE EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON APRIL 6 AND 7, THE DRC DID NOT DISCUSS THE DRC ITEMS IN THE FLEXIBILITY STUDY. AS A RESULT, THE IS IS DRAFTING A REPORT WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE DRC PROBABLY ON MONDAY, APRIL 18. WE ANTICIPATE TWO POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN THE IS DRAFT PAPER REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS C-23 (AN ADDITIONAL US CORPS OF THREE DIVISIONS FOR THE CINCENT RESERVE) AND M-56 (EARMARKING US COAST GUARD SHIPS TO NATO (SACLANT)).

2. REGARDING RECOMMENDATION C-23, WE POINTED OUT INFORMALLY TO THE IS THAT THE US HAD ALREADY EARMARKED FOR NATO THE 3RD CORPS HQ AND FOUR DIVISIONS IN THE US AND SUGGESTED THESE UNITS SHOULD FILL THE REQUIREMENTS, BUT THAT THE USE OF THESE UNITS BY ACE SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NATO MILITARY SECRET

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AUTHORITIES AND THE US. THEREFORE, THIS MEASURE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE MC FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION RATHER THAN BEING PROPOSED AS A SUBJECT FOR FORCE GOALS. THE IS, HOWEVER, POINTS OUT THIS MEASURE CALLS FOR A CORPS HQ AND THREE DIVISIONS WHICH ARE IN ADDITION TO UNITS CURRENTLY EARMARKED FOR NATO AND THEREFORE SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION AS A FORCE PROPOSAL.

3. CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF EARMARKING COAST

GUARD UNITS TO NATO, THE IS IS AWARE OF THE COMMENT IN THE MC REPORT (MCM-81-76) THAT QUOTE: AS THE US COAST GUARD (USCG) ASSETS ARE NOT UNDER THE PURVIEW OF US MILITARY COMMANDERS IN PEACETIME, THE RECOMMENDATION TO EARMARK USCG UNITS TO NATO CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED. SUBJECT TO THEIR AVAILABILITY AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR PRIMARY MISSION, USCG HIGH-ENDURANCE CUTTERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN NATO MARITIME EXERCISES IN OR NEAR NORMAL USCG OPERATING AREAS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE USCG IS OPERATING AS A PART OF THE DOD, USCG SHIPS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR NATO OR USED TO FREE OTHER COMBATTANTS FOR NATO ASSIGNMENTS. END QUOTE. STILL, THE IS POINTS OUT THAT EVEN THOUGH THE USCG IS NOT UNDER THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, IT IS STILL A US GOVERNMENT RESOURCE AND THEREFORE COULD BE EARMARKED TO NATO AND SO IS APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION AS A NATO FORCE PROPOSAL.

3. AT THE DRC MEETING NEXT WEEK, WE CAN EITHER PERMIT THE DRC TO REFER THESE ITEMS TO NMAS FOR INCLUSION IN NATO FORCE PROPOSALS OR WE CAN TAKE THE POSITION, IF APPROPRIATE, THAT THE US HAS ALREADY GONE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO NATO, AND NOW THE PROBLEM IS A BILATERAL ONE BETWEEN THE NMAS AND THE US ON HOW BEST TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES WITHIN THE EXISTING CONSTRAINTS AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE
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REFERRED TO THE MC. IF IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE US TO COMPLY WITH THESE MEASURES IF THEY BECOME FORCE GOALS, PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE AN ATTEMPT NOW TO STOP A DRC SUGGESTION THAT THE NMAS CONSIDER THESE MEASURES FOR INCLUSION IN THE FORCE PROPOSALS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB APRIL 18 ON WHETHER THESE ITEMS WOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE FORCE PROPOSALS FOR THE US. STRAUZ-HUPE

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